

# Healthy Bees Plan

## News and Highlights: Update on plans for 2011–2012

The Healthy Bees Project Management Board finalised the 2011/12 work plan in May and implementation is underway. The work plan includes: further work on BeeBase to improve its usefulness to beekeepers; continuing to jointly fund with BBKA the BBKA Education Coordinator to improve the availability and quality of local education and training initiatives for beekeepers; production of additional good practice templates; continuing with the action plan started in December 2009 to increase the numbers of beekeepers registered on BeeBase, and continuing to offer Fera-supported Train the Trainer courses for beekeeper trainers.

The work plan also includes development of a campaign with Veterinary Medicines Directorate to inform beekeepers about the use of medicines, including good practice and their legal responsibilities. As part of the enhanced education programme initiated by the BBKA and the National Diploma in Beekeeping (NDB) and co-funded with Fera during 2010/11 (to develop course in a case materials and short topic-based training courses, as well as to increase the number of beekeeper trainers) the BBKA has set up a Delivering Education Group, which it chairs. Members include representatives from BBKA, NDB, Bee Farmers' Association, Fera and Northern Ireland and Scottish beekeepers. This group's purpose is to make sure that the new courses in cases and NDB short courses are well used by local associations, and to nurture and support the growing band of beekeeper trainers across the UK.

### Medicines for bees

The Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) continues to implement its action plan to increase the availability of authorised medicines for honey bees and also to ensure their correct use, which is paramount for food safety. Residues in honey, due to improper use of medicines, could undermine its image as a healthy natural product. Further details are given in the VMD Action Plan [www.vmd.defra.gov.uk/pdf/bee\\_actionplan.pdf](http://www.vmd.defra.gov.uk/pdf/bee_actionplan.pdf). Optimal use of available medicines by beekeepers is also important to sustain their effectiveness in treating pests and diseases.

### Update on the Random Apiary Survey

All the samples for the Random Apiary Survey have now been collected and analyses are underway. As soon as these are completed a paper for publication in a peer-reviewed journal and a one-page summary of the findings will be produced.

### 2011–12 Short Courses

Month	Dates	Course	Lead Tutor	Centre
Nov	5, 6	Anatomy and Dissection <b>New!</b>	Graham Royle	Cheshire
	11, 12	Adult Bee Disease	Ken Basterfield	Kent
Dec	2, 3	Teaching for Beekeeping Tutors *	Bridget Beattie	Devon
	4, 5	Integrated Pest Management <b>New!</b>	Bridget Beattie	Devon
Jan	14, 15	Adult Bee Disease	Ken Basterfield	Cheshire
	28, 29	Microscopy	Graham Royle	Kent
Feb	11, 12	Nutrition and Pollen	Robert Smith	Cheshire
	25, 26	Anatomy and Dissection <b>New!</b>	Graham Royle	Devon
Mar	17, 18	Teaching for Beekeeping Tutors *	Bridget Beattie	Kent
	19, 20	Integrated Pest Management <b>New!</b>	Bridget Beattie	Kent

\* may qualify for Fera subsidy.

### Working with others to raise awareness about BeeBase and the importance of registration.

Some 2,200 additional beekeepers registered on BeeBase during 2011. If you have not already registered please do so by visiting [www.nationalbeeunit.com](http://www.nationalbeeunit.com) or by phoning the National Bee Unit (NBU) on 01904 462510. By letting us know that you keep bees and the location of your hives, you will be helping in our ongoing battle against disease and our efforts to sustain honey bee populations.

### Education and training

- With many beekeepers reporting the presence of large numbers of wasps in apiaries and around their bee hives, the NBU have produced *Advice note — wasps*. Also with the poor weather conditions we have been experiencing the NBU produced *Advice note — feeding bees*. These advice notes and many others can be found on BeeBase.
- Following the successful series of National Diploma in Beekeeping (NDB) Short Courses run during January to March 2011, the NDB will be running courses again, over the coming months. These courses will run over two full days, and aim to allow delegates to become immersed in relatively narrow aspects of the huge field that is 'beekeeping'. In small groups and with NDB qualified tutors, this arrangement allows real learning and exploration of the subject to be achieved.

The original series of Short Courses, part funded by Fera under the auspices of the Healthy Bees Plan, has been augmented by some new titles. *Anatomy and Dissection* is a new course, written by Graham Royle, NDB, which allows delegates to explore the external and internal anatomy of the honey bee and begin to make sense of the amazing complexity and special adaptations in such small creatures. *Integrated Pest Management*, written by Bridget Beattie, NDB, also a new course, explores ways in which we can manage the health of our bees (not simply varroa) using combinations of techniques to minimise adverse effects.

Full details and an application form for the Short Courses are to be found on the NDB web-site [www.national-diploma-bees.org.uk](http://www.national-diploma-bees.org.uk)

Also to be found on the web-site are details of the three Regional Training Centres that will be used; these are all modern facilities chosen to enhance the learning environment.

### The 'Teaching for Beekeeper Tutors' course may be eligible for funding:

The Healthy Bees Plan is still funding the accredited City & Guilds 7303 'Train the Trainer' course and will continue to do so until the end of the 2011/12 financial year. We are in the process of writing to local associations. *If you would like to attend a course please contact [beehealthinfo@fera.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:beehealthinfo@fera.gsi.gov.uk) in the first instance and we will send you details explaining what you are able to claim etc.* Applications should be endorsed by a member of your local association ie. Secretary or Chairman or your local Bee Inspector.

Healthy Bees Project Manager,  
Fera, Sand Hutton, York, YO41 1LZ  
[beehealthinfo@fera.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:beehealthinfo@fera.gsi.gov.uk)